

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #135, MARCH 2015

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROBLEM

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (S.178) has run into a snag when it was noticed that it contained language which violated the Hyde Amendment. The Hyde Amendment was adopted in 1997 and bars the use of federal funds from being used to pay for abortions. Exceptions are for rape, incest or when the life of the mother is endangered. A portion of this law would negate these exceptions.

STUDENT LOAN LEGISLATION

Several bills have been introduced which affect student loans. Because these bills have been introduced so recently, the bill text and bill summary are not currently available. This information should be posted at Congress.gov by early April. S.793 would allow refinancing of students loans to get a lower interest rate. H.R.1511 and S. 809 would "allow a credit against tax for qualified elementary and secondary education tuition."

BACKUP CAMERA REQUIREMENT

A 2008 law passed by Congress directed the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue a rule requiring new vehicles to be equipped with backup cameras within three years. This law was enacted to prevent drivers from backing over people especially small children; because rearview and side mirrors often are not adequate to allow the driver to see them. Several organizations entered into a lawsuit against the Department of Transportation because it had not carried out the provisions of the law. As a result of this lawsuit, starting in May 2018 all vehicles will be required to have these cameras. It is estimated that about 100 children are killed every year from this type of accident

STATE INITIATED MOVEMENT FOR CIVICS TEST

Several states are considering having a civics test as a requirement for high school graduation. Arizona and North Dakota have legislated that students must pass a portion of the test administered to immigrants in order to get U.S. citizenship. At least 17 other states are considering something similar as a prerequisite for high school graduation.

COMPUTER WEBCAM SUGGESTION

If you have a webcam linked to your computer, you should be aware that it is possible for someone to remotely turn the camera on. One suggestion is turning the webcam so the lens faces a wall when you are not actively using it,

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

Email access and addresses

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate
White House [1-202-456-1111](tel:1-202-456-1111)

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.
